

Testimony in OPPOSITION
to
Senate Bill 544
in
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
On
February 14, 2023

The Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) is submitting testimony in opposition to SB 544, which directs the Environmental Quality Commission to establish program for source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging and achieve 25 percent source reductions compared to 2023 levels by 2030.

I am Sam Schlaich, Counsel, Government Affairs of FPA, which represents flexible packaging manufacturers and suppliers to the industry in the U.S. Flexible packaging represents over \$39 billion in annual sales; is the second-largest and fastest-growing segment of the packaging industry; and employs approximately 79,000 workers in the United States. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of these materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products.

FPA and its members are particularly interested in solving the plastic pollution issue, increasing the recycling of solid waste from packaging, and creating a working, circular economy. As you know, in 2021 Oregon became the second state to pass laws creating an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for packaging. Oregon's "Recycling Modernization Act" (RMA) will completely overhaul Oregon's recycling system and establish waste reduction targets to be met in the state. We believe that the state should allow for the RMA to be implemented and then assess its impact on recycling and solid waste before placing additional onerous and costly burdens on the business community.

For that reason, FPA must oppose SB 544 and respectfully request an unfavorable report.

In advance, thank you for your consideration. If we can provide further information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-694-0800 or SSchlaich@Flexpack.org.

Respectfully,

Sam Schlaich

Sam H. Schlaich, J.D.

Government Affairs Counsel, FP